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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/769,464	01/26/2001	Thomas Thoroe Scherb	P20417	5460

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RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

HASTINGS, KAREN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1731

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

T-D-8

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/169,464

Applicant(s)

Scherb et al

Examiner

HASTINGS

Group Art Unit

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—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10-23-01
- ☐ This action is FINAL.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 1/26/01 is/are objected to by the Examiner. Fig 3 handwritten words;
Fig 4-7 very faint lines
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 6, 7
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

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Claims 8 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

In each of claims 8 and 21, line 2 "belt" has no claim antecedent basis - it appears --wire-- should be used instead.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various

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claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. § 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 1-8, 11 and 15-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kamps et al.

No differences can be seen over the forming fabric/wire of Kamps et al. which is used in the initial forming section to make a tissue paper. Kamps et al. discloses that the forming fabric may have areas of relatively slow water drainage, i.e. zonally variable wire permeability. Column 3 lines 10-20 disclose that the wire can be formed by weaving a decorative pattern into the forming fabric/wire. Figure 5 of Kamps et al. shows a crescent former with the decorative fabric 13 overlaying a twin wire paper making felt/wire 12.

Again, no differences can be seen over this reference. But if any minor differences exist, they are prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. For example, note that the term

"wire" or "belt" or "fabric" are all used interchangeably in the paper making forming fabric art and the Examiner sees no distinction between the phrase "dewatering wire" as used in these claims and "forming fabric" used to describe the decorative forming wire/fabric of the reference, Kamps et al. Kamps at col at col 5 lines 60-62 even describes the forming fabric as a wire.

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamps et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kotitschke which, if even necessary, exemplifies the very well known conventional feature of a conditioning device/wire cleaning device for the wires in a twin wire section. See for example blowing device 2 and water spraying device 3 shown in Kotitschke to clean the forming fabric as well as high pressure spray tubes 4 to also clean it. Thus to provide conditioning/cleaning devices for the forming fabrics of Kamps et al. would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in order to gain the known advantages of keeping the fabrics/wires clean.

Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamps et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of as necessary Eaton et al. which, if even necessary, exemplifies that machine speeds at the recited ranges are known. Thus to operate a paper making machine at such speeds

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would have been prima facie obvious for the known advantages of obtaining more output per unit time by running the machine at the fastest possible rate. Note furthermore that Kamps et al. at column 11 line 36 teaches as an example a machine speed of 2500 feet per minute. It is well known that the speed of the machine is a known result effective variable; again the faster the machine goes, the more output will be obtained, etc. See Eaton et al. column 5 lines 52-55 which teaches present operating commercial twin wire machines speeds of up to 6000 feet per minute (1828 meters per minute) are used.

Claims 5, 12-14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to the respective claims above, and further in view of Turunen et al. as necessary.

Turunen et al. teaches at column 1 lines 14-16 that in a paper making twin wire tissue making machine, the endless fabrics each may take the form of either a wire or felt. Thus to use two wires and have a double wire former as set forth in claims 5 and 18 would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Note with respect to claims 12-14 column 1 lines 44+ teach that upper speed limits of 1500 meters per minute are relatively low maximum speeds; and the inventive machine of Turunen et al.

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(in 1979) teaches they may achieve speeds higher than that. Clearly thus it would have been prima facie obvious to operate a tissue making machine such as one with a zonally variable permeability fabric such as shown in Kamps et al. and/or suggested by other references at the recited speeds since these are known and/or suggested operating speed ranges for tissue making machines.

Claims 1-24 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the respective references as applied to the claims above, and further in view of SE 427053 or Hays et al. *cl. pg 30 of spec. 8*

SE '053 teaches a forming wire/fabric using different weave paths to make different porosity and void volume/permeability. The translation teaches this may be used for a forming wire to make tissue non-wovens or the like. Likewise Hays et al (US equivalent to PCT GB 99/02684, i.e. WO/12817, mentioned in the instant specification at pg 9) teaches a forming fabric to produce a patterned fibrous web with different areas of zonal permeability. Hays et al also specifically teaches on page 12 that the forming fabric may be employed as a forming wire in the wet forming process.

It can be seen that either of these references alone anticipates and/or renders obvious many of the claims of record. But in any event, in order to be complete and not give unduly

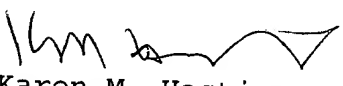
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multiple rejections, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the forming wires/fabrics of either Swedish '053 or Hays et al as the decorative forming fabric in the twin wire machine as taught in Kamps et al for the known advantages of these fabrics as taught by each reference. These references are applied, especially Hays et al, since the specification of this application explicitly teaches that forming fabrics/wires of these types are intended to be encompassed by the claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Hastings whose telephone number is (703) 308-0470. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 6:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Stanley Silverman, can be reached on (703) 308-3857. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-7115.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0651.


Karen M. Hastings
Senior Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731

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KMH/cdc
January 23, 2002